

Friday Night Fax

A Periodic Publication for Indiana AmeriCorps Programs and Community Service Partners

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Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism

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Notice of Fund Availability – 2003/2004 AmeriCorps

The ICCSV mailed out fliers notifying current and potential new applicants of the available AmeriCorps funding. The final version of the guidance is now available on the website. Other support materials, such as the Sustainability guidance, Indiana Unified State Plan for Service, Performance Outcomes guidance, and an overview of the eGrants System is also on the website. The deadline for sustainability plans is December 16th for current AmeriCorps grantees. If you have any questions regarding this year's process, please contact our office. Visit the ICCSV website at www.IN.gov/iccsv for information on the AmeriCorps State application process for 2003/2004 – Applications are due January 17th!

AmeriCorps Programs: Mark Your Calendars for Project STAR Training

The ICCSV will host *Project STAR*, a training and technical assistance national provider, on *December 19th and 20th in Indianapolis, Indiana*. Project STAR provides Corporation-funded programs with training on all aspects of the evaluation process, including writing outcome-based objectives, developing evaluation plans, analyzing data, and reporting results. The training will take place at IUPUI Continuing Education facilities at *Glendale Mall on North Keystone Avenue*. There will be an opportunity for new AmeriCorps program directors and organizations to participate in a training with ProjectSTAR staff on Wednesday, December 18th at the same location. To confirm your attendance and hotel room, please contact Brandy Wood via email at bwood@dwd.state.in.us.

ICCSV Hosts Inter-Agency Work Group – Focus: the Unified State Plan for Service **Communication, collaboration, and coordination**. These three words are the driving force behind the Unified State Plan Inter-Agency Work Group established recently by the ICCSV. Ten state agencies with responsibilities ranging from environmental protection to community health participated in the first of what ICCSV organizers say will become a monthly event. "I think the represented state agencies were presently surprised by the work we do at the ICCSV. On the flip side, I think we were awed by the kinds of services and programs these state agencies support or operate at the local grassroots level," says Carey Craig, the ICCSV's senior program officer. At the beginning of the meeting, several agency representatives thanked the ICCSV for *developing a vision and implementing an inter-agency work group to assist communities and citizens to address local needs*. One participant noted that such a group was a long-time coming. One of the first objectives of the work group is to begin the communication process - dialogue about what agencies are doing, the programs they operate, and the resources they offer. "The Unified State Plan is a perfect foundation on which to build this process," says Joseph L. Smith, Sr., executive director of the ICCSV. "The state's generation of targeted resources and programs do make a difference to local communities and in the lives of local citizens." However, Smith notes that they are one component of community development and empowerment. "Educated and engaged citizens is what will drive and sustain community in the twenty-first century. Government can't replace that, but it can actively encourage such efforts." Other state agencies have expressed an interest in participating and were unable to attend the first event.

ICCSV Hosts Regional Workshops on AmeriCorps Funding

Taking its message and expertise to communities. That's what the ICCSV did during the first week of December. *The ICCSV hosted five regional workshops for organizations interested in learning more about the Commission, its programs, and, in particular, how to apply for federal funds to operate an AmeriCorps program. The first workshop was conducted on Monday in Indianapolis with successive workshops held in New Albany, Evansville, Fort Wayne, and Gary on December 2 through the 6.* Program Officer, Brandy Wood, said that the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that provides AmeriCorps funding to the ICCSV, made many new and positive changes to the program for 2003-2004. "Communities will begin to feel the impact of AmeriCorps as new programs will be required to generate more volunteers, collaborate with small community- and faith-based organizations, evaluate needs and monitor community change," says Wood. *The goal of the new guidance is to infuse federal dollars into communities that will assist the both the organization and its community partners to create sustainable, self-sufficient programs for the long-term.*

The Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism challenges the people of Indiana to strengthen their communities through service and volunteerism. We identify and mobilize resources, promote an ethic of service, and develop in communities the capacity to solve problems and improve the quality of life for all individuals and families.

Celebrate Volunteerism Conference – January 15, 2003

The ICCSV, Indiana Association of Volunteer Centers and other service and volunteer partners, will host an event, *Celebrate Volunteerism* on January 15th, 2003. This will provide volunteer agencies to meet with members of the Indiana General Assembly, in the Statehouse Rotunda. All 150 members are invited to join a short ceremony, which will consist of proclamations being read and short comments from key state officials. Shortly after the short mingling with your representative there will presentations in the Government Center concerning the following topics: Citizens Corps, volunteer recruitment and mobilization, community building and other topics which strengthen and support volunteering. Invitations will be sent during the next two weeks – visit our website at www.IN.gov/iccsv for more information later this month!

Citizen Corps Interest is Increasing

Citizen Corps was established to provide local communities with resources and tools to address disaster and security needs. There are five components to Citizen Corps, some of which you may be familiar with; such as the Neighborhood Watch Program, and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). All Citizen Corps programs are overseen by a Citizen Corps Council to promote public service, increase the speed and efficiency of emergency response, and ultimately help save lives. *On December 4, 2002 FEMA announced that Indiana will receive over \$80,000 to fund existing Citizen Corps Councils across the state.* Presently, there are *eight nationally recognized local Citizen Corps Councils in Indiana*. There are six local communities that are nearing the final stages of Citizen Corps Council structural organization, and are close to starting their application process. Several local emergency response directors are showing great interest in starting Citizen Corps Councils; and in addition to their inquiries, interest is pouring in from many different types of volunteer organizations such as the Red Cross, and the Purdue Extension program. Contact is being made on a daily basis with local emergency management directors concerning Citizen Corps Councils and the ICCSV team continues to respond with as much information as possible to ensure that all communities have the information they need to get Citizen Corps Councils started.

Reflection from a National Service Participant

Remembering the 2002 Call To Action Conference: To the notion that Homeland Security is best served by creating and re-enforcing the sense of community that the commonality of mankind is built upon. AmeriCorps works on the principle that the safest nation is developed one secure neighborhood at a time, one happy well-adjusted child at a time, one active, healthy, fulfilled centenarian at a time. We are a nation whose strengths are built on our opportunities; our endless opportunities are founded on our flexibility. Our flexibility is based on our diversity and our willingness to accept and adapt to change. Whatever is not endlessly evolving is already dead; we may well last forever. – Pat Tapp – AmeriCorps Member, AmeriCorps Evansville

Reflection from a National Service Initiative

The Evansville Head Start Program started a new project this past year, the Teachers' Recycling Center. The Center collects recyclables and open-ended materials that are used by the Head Start program to assist children in creating pieces of art that foster creative imaginations and help improve the environment. This is especially important now that the some school systems are removing art programs from the curriculum due to budget constraints. AmeriCorps*VISTA has helped to make the dream of a young child come true – to give a work of art, a treasure to his/her parent(s). The children produce lions, hats, goblins, pocket books, flowers and other keepsakes from "left-over" household items. Could you use a piggy bank made from a milk bottle? A butterfly made from a tissue box? A pocket book made from a cereal box? So you see, the trash heap is really an art supply store and one person's trash really is another's treasure.

Indiana 2016 Wants You!

If you want to be informed about exciting community-based activities going on around the state, you will want to subscribe to the free e-newsletter, Building Community, from Indiana 2016. See what schools, neighborhoods and groups are doing to make their communities a better place to live and work. To subscribe, just send your request to indiana2016@gov.state.in.us. Every other month, you'll receive a link to the colorful 6-page newsletter full of success stories and free or low-cost programs available for your participation. What's more, Building Community is looking for stories from you! Email us your heartwarming stories, together with your telephone number. We'll be looking for them.

Positive and encouraging reflection articles from national service participants and initiatives can be sent to the ICCSV for possible inclusion in a future issue. AmeriCorps Programs and service partners may contribute information on upcoming events to be included in the publication by contacting the ICCSV by electronic mail at iccsv@state.in.us.

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2003 Indiana Service Learning Conference

The annual Indiana Service-Learning Conference will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on February 20, 2003. Conference information and registration form can be found on the web at www.serve.indiana.edu. The deadline for workshop proposals is January 10, 2003. AmeriCorps members may attend the event at the student rate! For more information call 812-856-0528 or e-mail clpadmin@indiana.edu.

Tip of the Month

The Good Knight Campaign, a non-secular, non-partisan not-for-profit organization is seeking 300 sites within Indiana (schools, faith-based institutions, community groups, youth organizations, etc.) to participate in a federally-funded program that protects children from abuse, abduction, crime and violence. Each site will receive complimentary materials that will assist in their implementation of a nationally recognized crime and violence prevention program featured on America's Most Wanted, CBS' 48 Hours new program, and in Parade Magazine. A site is required to reach a minimum of 50 youth through the implementation of Youth Mentors and to activate them as Knights Champions. For more information, go online to the organization's website - www.goodknight.org.

Keep in Touch!

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Important Deadlines and Upcoming Events

Sustainability Plan Deadline for Current Grantees	December 16, 2002
Project Star Training	December 18 – 20, 2002
New Year's Eve	December 31, 2002
New Year's Day	January 1, 2003
Celebrate Volunteerism Conference	January 15, 2003
Deadline for AmeriCorps Applications (competitive & formula)	January 17, 2003
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service	January 20, 2003

Available Now! Indiana Volunteers License Plates (for front of vehicle) are available for purchase. For more information, please contact Brandy Wood at bwood@dwd.state.in.us.